



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Announces Bipartisan, Bicameral Agreement on Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization

Agreement Paves Way for Approval by Senate Today and House Soon Thereafter

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today announced a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The agreement is expected to be approved by the Senate today and the House soon thereafter. The VAWA reauthorization is included in H.R. 3402, which authorizes Justice Department programs for fiscal years 2006-2009 and implements much-needed reforms to the Department's grant programs.

Chairman Sensenbrenner commented, "The reauthorization of VAWA will continue the tradition of changing attitudes toward domestic violence and will expand its focus to changing attitudes toward other violent crimes including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This legislation reauthorizes important core programs such as 'STOP' grants and grants to reduce campus violence that have been successful in combating domestic violence and sexual assault. Many Members assisted in this bipartisan effort including Representatives Conyers, Solis, Brown-Waite, and Pryce and Senators Biden, Specter, and Leahy. I also would particularly like to thank my Wisconsin colleague Mark Green for his determined efforts to reauthorize VAWA."

Lynn Rosenthal, the President of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, stated, "The House and Senate Judiciary Committees have done their job and we are so pleased that they have reached this agreement on a strong bill that will help save lives. We thank

Members of Congress, especially Representatives Sensenbrenner and Conyers, and Senators Biden, Specter, and Leahy for all of their hard work to get this legislation enacted by the end of the year.”

“This legislation also reauthorizes other critical Justice Department programs necessary to provide for the safety and security of Americans, while enabling Congress to properly exercise the vigorous oversight that the Constitution requires. This legislation contains common sense provisions designed to improve administration of programs and offices within the Justice Department. H.R. 3402 eliminates duplication by consolidating the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program and the Byrne grant program into one program with the same purposes and simplified administration,” added Chairman Sensenbrenner.

Highlights of H.R. 3402

- Authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009
- Implements reforms to the Department’s grant programs
- Creates a privacy officer at the Justice Department who must report to Congress on alleged privacy violations by the Department, is responsible for coordinating the Department’s privacy efforts, and ensures the Department complies with all applicable federal privacy laws and regulations
- Establishes an office to ensure grant money is used appropriately and to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in grant programs
- Reauthorizes for 2007-2011 core programs from the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and 2000 and makes improvements to those grant programs to enhance the ability to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking
- Authorizes grants to train medical personnel in dealing with victims of these crimes
- Authorizes prevention grants designed to educate communities on the realities of these crimes
- Reauthorizes the STOP program, which provides state formula grants that help fund collaborative efforts between police and prosecutors and victim services providers
- Reauthorizes grants with the goal of police officers aggressively arresting abusers who commit acts of violence or violate protection orders
- Authorizes new grants to improve training for court officials and law enforcement.

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